

Webb: Iran seeks hegemony

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is concerned by Iran's push to dominate the Gulf region and will not reduce a large naval force there until U.S. shipping in the waterway is safe, Navy Secretary James Webb said on Wednesday. "You might wonder why the Iranians have had such an objection to our being there and to ceasefires allowing them to pump two million barrels of oil a day ...," he told a news conference. "The obvious conclusion is that there is a long-term objective from this particular regime to have hegemony in this area of the world... we are concerned because that is the genesis of Iranian belligerence." Mr. Webb, back from a weekend visit to a 28-ship U.S. naval force in the region, said he was encouraged by a growing allied presence in the Gulf and the safe passage of U.S.-escorted Kuwaiti tankers in the waterway. "We (U.S. forces) are at the point where we can carry out our mission and at the appropriate time downsize that presence to the way it has been over the previous 37 years and get back to conducting our business as usual around the world," he said.

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MEA pilots go on strike

BEIRUT (R) — Air traffic at Beirut airport halted on Wednesday when Lebanese pilots announced a 24-hour strike, airport sources said. They said pilots of the Lebanese flag carrier, Middle East Airlines (MEA), campaigning for better working conditions, stopped flying at 2000 local time (1700 GMT). The airport is currently only used by a few East European companies apart from MEA.

Lord Soames dies

LONDON (R) — Lord Soames, British statesman who was a son-in-law of Winston Churchill and presided over the transition of Britain's last colony in Africa into independent Zimbabwe, died on Wednesday, his family said. He was 66. Lord Soames was governor of Southern Rhodesia from 1979 to 1980. Lord Soames, who had a varied career as a soldier, politician, diplomat and businessman, was married to Lady Mary Soames, the younger daughter of Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister.

U.S. supreme court nominee grilled

WASHINGTON (R) — Judge Robert Bork on Wednesday strongly defended his controversial role in the Watergate scandal as the second day of Senate hearings on his nomination to the supreme court got off to a contentious start. Mr. Bork, whose nomination to the nation's highest court has sparked one of the most bitter public debates in a decade, also defended himself against charges that his record on protecting women's rights is poor. Mr. Bork's nomination holds high stakes both for President Reagan and Mr. Bork's liberal opponents, who fear he will work to overturn supreme court rulings legalizing abortion and guaranteeing civil liberties and the rights of blacks and women.

Libya denies report of anti-U.S. attack

ROME (AP) — The official Libyan news agency on Wednesday denied a French magazine report that Libyans had been planning to attack the U.S. embassy in Paris. On Sunday, the French newsmagazine Le Point reported that French police expelled four persons to Libya after foiling a Libyan plan to attack the embassy, apparently on Sept. 1 to coincide with the 18th anniversary of the coup that brought Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to power.

Israel announces anti-Pretoria 'sanctions'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior cabinet ministers decided Wednesday to extend Israeli sanctions against South Africa beyond military restrictions to include further cutbacks in commercial and scientific ties, Israel Radio reported. The decision by the 10-member inner cabinet followed U.S. pressure on Israel to reduce its level of cooperation with the white minority government in Pretoria. Israeli opponents of sanctions have said a cutback in ties would cost Israel millions of dollars a year and thousands of jobs. News reports have said South Africa is a key client of Israel's billion-dollar-a-year arms industry, buying mainly tanks and light firearms.

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Iraq, saying Iran rejected all peace efforts, resumes air raids on oil targets

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq unleashed its fighter-bombers to attack Iranian oil centres and a ship in the Gulf Wednesday, saying that Tehran had spurned a U.N. ceasefire resolution and all peace efforts in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

The air raids signalled a new flare-up in the so-called "tanker war" after a six-day lull. Shipping officials braced for Iranian retaliatory attacks on neutral shipping in the southern reaches of the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military communiqué as saying four air raids were launched against the big Kharg Island oil terminals, the Karan and Bagh-Malek oilfields and the unidentified ship off the Iranian coast.

Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA quoted a war information headquarters spokesman as saying Iran would "strongly respond" to Iraq's "mischievous acts."

U.N. chief returns to New York, says Iran and Iraq flexing muscles

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Wednesday from talks in Iran and Iraq that both sides in the Gulf war were flexing their muscles.

Asked if he detected flexibility by the two sides in his talks that began last Saturday, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters: "They are both flexing their muscles."

In advance of his report to the Security Council, called into private session within hours of his return to New York, a Western delegate said the outlook for peace was gloomy.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar declined throughout his tour to give details of his talks and he was no more forthcoming on his return to the United Nations, saying only that

he learned what the two sides "had at the back of their minds."

Asked if he were optimistic, he said he did not like that word.

Diplomats said Mr. Perez de Cuellar decided to save time by addressing members of the Security Council in person rather than by presenting a written account,

which would have taken a day or two to prepare.

They said they expected he would have a separate meeting on Thursday with the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China. Each has the power of veto.

After the council adopted unanimously on July 20 a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war, Mr.

Perez de Cuellar said he would only go to the area if he had assurances that he would not return empty-handed.

Iraq said it would order a ceasefire if Iran did likewise.

When Iraq failed to make a definitive commitment, the council decided that the secretary general should go to Tehran and Baghdad anyway.

The United States believes the next stage should be a mandatory council resolution imposing an arms embargo against Iran.

But diplomats said the outcome for such a move was uncertain.

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday that James Gbebo

(Continued on page 4)

Resistance men kill 3 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon battle

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian and Lebanese resistance fighters have killed at least three Israeli soldiers and wounded four in an eight-hour gunbattle in South Lebanon, Lebanon and Israeli sources reported Wednesday.

Lebanese sources said four Israelis were killed in the clash in Israel's self-designated "security zone."

An army spokesman in Tel Aviv said three Israeli soldiers were killed and four wounded in the ambush, marking the highest Israeli casualty toll in a single confrontation in Lebanon in two years.

Israeli warplanes made several

low passes over South Lebanon villages and Palestinian refugee camps at noon on Wednesday, panicking residents who feared the jets would bomb in retaliation for the ambush.

The jets did not attack, but they broke the sound barrier several times, sending residents to basements and bomb shelters, reporters in Sidon said in telephone dispatches.

Warplanes dropped more than 1,000 flares to light the way for the Israeli search force, which included members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, as helicopter gunships strafed nearby hills with machinegun fire.

A resistance statement read on

(Continued on page 4)

Carbomb kills 8 in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government proposed on Wednesday harsh measures to check a wave of bombings, the latest of which killed at least eight people in the north-western town of Peshawar.

An Afghan guerrilla party said the Peshawar attack in which 37 people were also wounded was aimed at its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who escaped unhurt.

But four bodyguards and a driver in a jeep following one taking Mr. Hekmatyar to a party meeting were wounded by the blast set off by a remote-controlled device, a spokesman for the Hezb-I-Islami party said.

Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahsen told parliament the proposed measures would include checks on illegal arms, harsh punishments, heightened police and intelligence vigilance and improving policing.

Aquino partially reshuffles cabinet after Laurel quits

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino on Wednesday named a new finance secretary in a partial reshuffle of ministers hours after her rebellious vice-president broke away from the cabinet.

Mrs. Aquino, in a live television broadcast, named two ex-military men to sensitive posts and rejected criticisms from Vice President Salvador Laurel that she was not dealing with the country's communist insurgency.

Mr. Laurel, who will stay as vice-president, quit his foreign secretary role and said he would not accept a new post in Mrs. Aquino's cabinet.

"Our nation is like a house on fire," he declared.

Mrs. Aquino named Public Works Secretary Vicente Jayme as the new finance secretary, succeeding Jaime Ongpin whose replacement had been widely anticipated.

Official sources said further new cabinet members would be named on Thursday as Mrs.

Aquino moved to shore up confidence in her crisis-struck government.

Mrs. Aquino also defended her counter-insurgency strategy.

"I tried and tried very hard," Mrs. Aquino said. "But even as I explored the path of a negotiated end to insurgency, I made it very clear that if negotiation fails, I would not hesitate to take up the sword of war."

In a press conference earlier, Mr. Laurel accused the administration of having a weak counter-insurgency policy and claimed Mrs. Aquino's government includes people "sympathetic to the communists." He said she plans to retain some of them in the new cabinet.

He stepped down as foreign secretary in the Sept. 9 mass cabinet resignation.

Mr. Laurel's charges appeared to be a major setback in Mrs. Aquino's efforts to restore unity to the government in the wake of the coup attempt and the cabinet resignations.

Their Majesties begin Swiss visit today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor begin a state visit to Switzerland today at the invitation of President Pierre Aubert. During the visit, the King is expected to hold talks with Mr. Aubert and other Swiss leaders on efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is expected to fly to Switzerland today at the head of a delegation to join the King in his talks in Berne.

Reuter said Wednesday the King was likely to focus on the Arab goal of an international Middle East peace conference in his talks with Mr. Aubert.

"The international conference will top the agenda," a well-

placed Jordanian source quoted by Reuter said. "The King may explore possible Swiss mediation (in the Arab-Israeli conflict) as

well as providing a conference

United Nations efforts to

halt the seven-year Gulf war.

Swiss Ambassador Harald Börner told Reuter Mr. Aubert, who is also foreign minister, would renew an offer to host a U.N.-sponsored conference on the Middle East in Geneva.

"We sustain all efforts to improve the peace process and think an international peace conference may contribute to a solution if all parties agree," Mr. Börner told Reuter.

The King, now in London, is due to spend one day in talks with Mr. Aubert and other Swiss government officials and one day sightseeing, accompanied by the Queen. Their Majesties are then expected to stay for a private holiday.

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians keep up protests despite tough Israeli measures

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— Palestinians clashed with Israeli soldiers on Wednesday in continuing demonstrations in the occupied West Bank marking the fifth anniversary of the massacre of Palestinians in the Shati and Sabra refugee camps of Beirut.

Israeli soldiers opened fire and lobbed tear-gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators. A 12-year-old Palestinian boy was shot dead in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus on Tuesday, leaving considerable losses," the agency reported.

The Israeli army said the clashes came a day after Hussein Mohammad Hamdan died from gunshot wounds in the heart and head following a demonstration at Balata.

Hamdan was shot by soldiers in one of four violent confrontations Tuesday in Balata during which two other Palestinians were wounded by Israeli gunfire.

Balata demonstrations continued for a second day Wednesday when protesters hurled stones, according to an army spokesman.

The worst clashes were in Nablus, 60 kilometres north of Jerusalem, where soldiers fired tear-

gas

at the Israeli army said.

There were no reported injuries in Wednesday's violence, the military said, adding that soldiers were surrounding the camp and patrolling the area on foot.

The Israeli army contended that an autopsy on Hamdan had not determined he was killed by troops since the bullet that went through his head had not been found.

However, there were no reports of anyone other than Israeli troops opening fire.

Hamdan's body was brought to hospital by his family several hours later. He was buried overnight.

During a second incident at the same place on Tuesday, hundreds of stone-throwing protesters advanced on Israeli troops outside Balata. But they turned back when the soldiers opened fire and two demonstrators were shot and wounded.

Masri and Soviet envoy review U.N. agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri discussed the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war with visiting Soviet envoy Oleg Peresypkin on Wednesday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Masri and Mr. Peresypkin, a Foreign Ministry official and president of the Soviet Academy for Diplomatic Studies, discussed the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York and Middle East issues, including the Gulf conflict.

The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

Jordan supports Iraq's call for the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran for refusing to accept the council's July 20 resolution demanding a ceasefire in the war.

Jordan lodges U.N. protest over Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government on Wednesday complained to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar about Israeli activities in the occupied Arab territories in violation of international law.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters:

"The PLO will raise this matter at the Arab foreign ministers meeting on Sept. 20 in Tunis. We will ask for a United Arab response to this hostile American action against the Palestinians and the PLO."

He added that the decision, announced late Tuesday because of what a U.S. State Department spokesman described as PLO support for "terrorism," stemmed from pressure by the U.S. Israeli lobby.

The spokesman rejected the accusation of PLO support for "terrorism" and said the decision would not affect its international standing.

"The PLO's presence and weight in the international arena, where it is recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, will not be affected by the American action," Abdul Rahman said.

He added that the head of the PLO office in Washington would contest the closure in the American courts.

Redman also cited the PLO's contacts with Palestinian guerrillas Abu Nidal and Abu Abbas, both wanted in the United States for "terrorism" charges.

He said there was no evidence anyone at the office had committed any illegal act and that it would not affect their rights under the first amendment guaranteeing free speech.

The action was denounced by the Arab League's U.S. representative, Ambassador Clovis Makoud, who said it was clearly reached under pressure from the U.S. Israeli lobby.

Mr. Makoud said the move "will be likely seen in the Arab World as an attempt to silence the voice of the Palestinians in the United States and to prevent them from acquainting the American public with their just grievances."

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) denounced the closure as unconstitutional and offered to help fight it in court.

Redman said the closure of the office would not affect the rights of U.S. citizens and permanent residents to continue to promote the PLO.

"The U.S. fully supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and respects their efforts to achieve these rights through a process of peaceful dialogue."

He picked out the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which rejoined the mainstream PLO in April.

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Hobeika, senior priest injured in Zahle blast

BEIRUT (AP) — The Greek Catholic archbishop of east Lebanon and Elie Hobeika, a Syrian-backed Christian militia leader, were wounded in a bomb explosion at the archbishopric in Syrian-policed Zahle during the night, police reported Wednesday.

A police statement said a militiaman was killed and 30 others, including Monsignor Andre Haddad and Mr. Hobeika, were wounded in what appeared to be an attempt to assassinate the militia leader.

Polic said the archbishop's wounds were "critical," while Mr. Hobeika suffered only superficial cuts.

Mr. Hobeika and aides were meeting, Monsignor Haddad at the archbishopric in Zahle, 31 miles (50 kilometers) east of Beirut, when the bomb went off 9.30 p.m. (1800 GMT), the statement added.

Civil defence rescuers and Syrian soldiers pulled the archbishop, Mr. Hobeika and aides from under the rubble and rushed them to a nearby hospital.

Monsignor Haddad suffered critical injuries and was still in the intensive care unit on Wednesday. Mr. Hobeika was discharged after wounds were bandaged.

The hardliners, led by Samir

Geagea, teamed up with Mr. Gemayel's supporters and ousted Mr. Hobeika on Jan. 14, 1986, after bloody street fighting in east Beirut and the Falangist heartland to the north.

Mr. Geagea has since headed the Lebanese Forces.

The man killed was one of Mr. Hobeika's bodyguards, the statement said. The wounded also were members of Mr. Hobeika's militia.

Mr. Hobeika is at odds with both Lebanon's Falangist President Amin Gemayel and the present leadership of the Lebanese Forces, the Falangists' main militia.

As commander of the Lebanese Forces, Mr. Hobeika signed in December 1985, a Syrian-brokered peace accord with Lebanon's main Muslim leaders, seeking to end Lebanon's 12 years of civil war.

Israeli-backed hardliners within the Lebanese Forces were angered by concessions Mr. Hobeika offered to the Muslims. Mr. Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, saw Mr. Hobeika as a major challenge to his influence within the Falangist community.

The hardliners, led by Samir

Libya recruits Lebanese to fight in Chad

BEIRUT (AP) — Libya has recruited more than one thousand impoverished leftist Lebanese militiamen as mercenaries to fight in Chad and plans to begin airlifting them to North Africa via Syria next week, militia sources disclosed Wednesday.

At least 1,000 militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt, and more than 200 from the pro-Moscow Lebanese Communist Party and two other Syrian-backed leftist militias, have already signed up, the sources said.

The pro-Syrian groups are the Arab Democratic Party, based in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli, and the Popular Nasserite Organisation, which controls the southern port of Sidon, the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added.

The recruiting of the mercenaries is continuing despite the acceptance by Libya and Chad

last week of a truce worked out by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

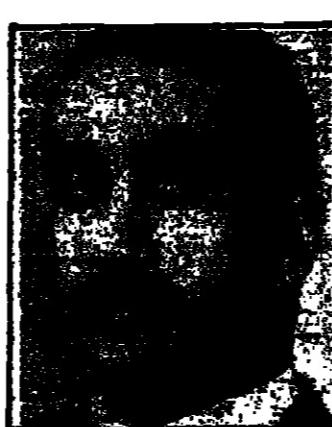
A PSP official, who also requested anonymity, said the Druze force will be commanded by PSP Central Committee Member Jamal Hamad.

He added that the force, which includes artillery officers, engineers and doctors, as well as infantrymen, will be stationed behind Libyan army lines on the Chad battlefield.

The other sources said the mercenaries are being paid from \$300 for a private, to \$1,000 for an officer, with extra allowances for those married.

Each recruit is given an advance of six months salary on signing up for one year's service. The next-of-kin of those killed in action will receive \$20,000 compensation, the sources added.

Such terms are very attractive in view of the severe unemployment problem and the economic crisis gripping Lebanon.



Elie Hobeika

recovering at the American University Hospital on Wednesday, two days after he was shot and wounded by an unidentified gunman in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Hospital officials said Mr. Sabra, 38, publisher-editor of the Ash Sharaa weekly magazine, has been moved out of the intensive care unit after his condition stabilized.

The attempt on Mr. Sabra's life was yet another challenge to Syria's effort to restore security to the western sector of the Lebanese capital.

Last February, the Syrians sent an estimated 7,500-man contingent west Beirut, which had been plagued by inter-militia fighting, assassinations, robberies and kidnappings.

Syria is the main power-broker in Lebanon. It has maintained troops for 11 years in north and east Lebanon under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

Hassan Sabra, a journalist who first broke the story of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, was

Swiss hand over Irangate bank records to U.S.

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has sent the United States the first of thousands of Geneva bank records tracing the "Swiss connection" in the Iran-contra affair and the rest should follow soon, the Justice Ministry said on Wednesday.

A spokesman said information on two accounts was sent to Washington on Monday. The majority of documents, including key ones relating to Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and retired Air-Force Major-General Richard Secord, remain blocked pending appeals to a cantonal court in Geneva.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Masri receives the credentials of newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth in a Wednesday presentation (Petra photo).

Suddarth presents credentials to Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-appointed U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roscoe S. Suddarth, on Wednesday presented a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Taher Masri.

Mr. Suddarth replaces Paul Becker, who had served as U.S. ambassador to Jordan since 1984.

Mr. Suddarth, 52, had served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle East Affairs before

Strategic Conference reports review evolution of Arab Order

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first Strategic Conference, held at the University of Jordan, continued its working sessions on Wednesday as participants sought to outline the dangers confronting the Arab World and the basis of a unified Arab strategy.

The conference, entitled "The Arab Order: The Current Situation and the Future Challenges," is the first of its kind, and has been jointly organised by the University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies and the Egyptian Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. Consequently, all the papers have been prepared by professors from the University of Jordan and Egyptian scholars and strategic thinkers.

Other participants represent a number of Arab countries including, Sudan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, and Lebanon. The subjects discussed in the conference covered the modern history of the Arab World, its economic development, and its defence challenges and capabilities.

All the issues and papers, however, were presented within the comprehensive context of the "Arab Order."

Although the participants did not seem to agree on a specific definition of the Arab Order, they all endorsed the idea that the prevailing Arab Order started with the formation of the Arab League in 1945.

In the participants' view, the Arab League, "has so far been the political framework of the Arab Order." General assessments and views expressed throughout the first two days of the conference reflected a consensus that the Arab League "could not and still remains unable to represent and reflect the Arab goals and aspirations towards integration and unity."

Criticism of the Arab League, however, was not directly aimed at the body per se, as much as criticising the organisation to reflect the prevailing splits, divisions, and lack of consensus in the Arab World.

In his opening speech, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, warned that the present Arab Order, as it

emerged following the foundation of the Arab League, "was heading towards demise."

During the discussions which followed, most participants agreed with the Prince's assessment, but differed amongst themselves in their analysis of the factors which could lead to the collapse of the Arab Order. The differences in the views expressed were even sharper over the possible alternatives or strategies to confront the serious challenges facing the Arab World.

The discrepancies in the opinions stemmed basically from the varied ideological backgrounds of the participants. In general, however, the influence of an Islamic trend, albeit not unified, was considerably evident.

Throughout the sessions there were strong arguments, voiced particularly by some Egyptians and Kuwaitis, which called for the expansion of the democratic freedoms and popular participation in the Arab World, the pursuit of an independent development course, as well as the endorsement of a long-term strategy based on the premises that the U.S. and Israel "were strategic enemies of the Arab nation."

But there were also voices which defended the prevailing status quo and expressed more "conciliatory" approaches towards the Israeli-Arab conflict. The main argument of this group was "that the only other alternative would be revolutions, chaos, and unrest."

The sessions included interesting debates about the historical analysis contained in the working papers, particularly those concerning the Ottoman Empire, the late Egyptian Jamal Abdul Nasser's era and role, the evolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the interaction between the "progressive" and the "conservative" Arab countries.

Debates over concepts and the terminology used in the papers and comments characterised all the sessions. Some scholars called for new definitions for "concepts, terminologies, and political categories" which are widely used but are losing their substance in the process since they lack clear definitions."

The five sessions of the conference were divided into three themes: the modern history of the

Arab League, the Arab Order, and the future of the Arab World.

The conference is scheduled to conclude on Thursday morning when two "strategic papers" will be presented for discussion and approval. The two papers, which are expected to include the main points raised throughout the conference, shall be considered as a final communiqué to sum the conclusions reached during the proceedings.

The second Strategic Conference will be held in Cairo next year. (A detailed report on the proceedings of the three-day conference will appear in Saturday's Jordan Times).

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in methods of combating narcotics and forgery opened at the Police Academy in Amman on Wednesday.

The opening session was addressed by Colonel Mohammad Al Bassoul, the academy director, who underlined the importance of the course in providing skills in the fight against drugs. Col. Bassoul noted that

Police chiefs conference ends

Meeting calls for security to play greater role in national development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab police chiefs wound up two days of discussions on Wednesday calling for direct participation by security apparatus in drawing up national socio-economic development plans of individual Arab states as a first step towards eliminating root causes of crime.

"Development planning cannot be complete and accurate if the security aspects related to the scheme are not considered," said one of the conference's recommendations.

These two suggestions were based on the detailed discussions on the relationship between development and comprehensive security. The papers outlined the main features of the economic development process in the Arab World, and pointed out the manifestations of and stressed the dangers of economic surveillance and dependency. They also explored the negative effects of the regional conflicts as well as inter-Arab divisions on economic development and emphasised the link between economic development and national security.

During the evening session on Wednesday, Egyptian military strategies presented a paper entitled "The Arab Order Under Threat," in which the military aspects and dimensions of the current and future challenges were stressed.

A number of Jordanian and Egyptian military personnel attended all the discussions and actively participated in the debates, especially on defence issues.

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and the implemented resolutions of former conferences, the concept of comprehensive security, the role of the police in investigating and in protecting archaeological sites, means of encouraging private and public institutions in combating crime, and subjects to be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL).

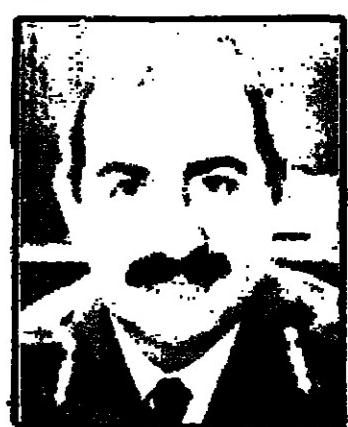
The senior police delegations praised Jordan's success in implementing the concept of comprehensive security, where police stations assume partial social services in addition to providing security, and called on member countries to adopt a similar strategy within their different capabilities and security limits.

On the role of police and investigation, the conferees called on participating countries to give more attention in selecting highly-qualified crime investigation teams.

To offer incentive for public and private associations in fighting crime, the meeting called on member delegates to develop their policies on education, media, culture, and socio-economics to help the public combat crime.

The establishment of councils for halting crime, grouping security and other representatives of the various institutions involved in crime prevention, was called for by the meeting.

The delegations unanimously supported a suggestion to nominate Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali to represent the Asia region for the



Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali position of deputy president for the Paris-based INTERPOL. They also endorsed naming a Sudanese police candidate to represent the African area in INTERPOL's executive committee.

These two nominations will be supported by the member delegations during the 5th forthcoming meeting of INTERPOL.

On the works of the Arab Sports Federation for Police, a recommendation called on each member country to maintain an active participation in the league's activities.

In addition, they decided to hold the 13th conference for Arab police chiefs in Tunisia during the same period next year.

In his speech to the closing session, Lt.-Gen. Majali, president of the current conference, expressed his gratitude for the conferees' constructive discussions and participation.

"The outcome of the Amman meetings will give a further push for all Arab security forces towards more cooperation in related matters and towards facing the future challenges," he added.

The meeting also sent two cables to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan, the Regent. In their two cables, the conferees thanked King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their patronisation of the 12th conference, and for the warm welcome and hospitality which were accorded during their stay here.

Anti-drug training course begins at police academy

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in methods of combating narcotics and forgery opened at the Police Academy in Amman on Wednesday.

The opening session was addressed by Colonel Mohammad Al Bassoul, the academy director, who underlined the importance of the course in providing skills in the fight against drugs.

The event was sponsored by the Arab League's Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

Topics of the seminar's working agenda touched on assessing

drug have become a very serious problem, adversely affecting social and economic development.

The 35 participants will hear lectures on measures for fighting drug trafficking and addiction.

Also on Wednesday, a training course attended by 45 police officers who are in charge of police stations around the country ended at the academy.

Women's club, USAID encourage awareness among working women

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) in Amman, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will produce a series of simple brochures aimed at spreading awareness among urban and rural women of their rights and duties in society and at work.

The brochures, funded by a USAID grant to \$35,000, will be produced by the legal staff of BPW. Although they are primarily aimed at women, the brochures will discuss social and labour issues of common concern to both men and women.

Initially, the brochures will cover such issues as, "Marriage," "Divorce and Separation," "Labour Laws," "Estate and Inheritance," and "Landlord and Tenant — Rights and Responsibilities."

Other issues of concern will be covered at a later date.

Each brochure will briefly state

the applicable law and give a clear Arabic language explanation.

The information contained in these brochures will answer the read-

ers' questions and encourage readers to contact the BPW for additional guidance and information.

The brochures will be distributed widely throughout the country.

The USAID grant agreement for the production of these brochures was signed Wednesday by BPW President Hind Abdul Jaber and Mr. Lewis Reade, USAID director in Jordan. This is the first agreement of its kind with the BPW and is intended to assist the BPW in expanding its services to a larger number of Jordanian women.

Abstract paintings by Syrian artist form unusual and engaging exhibit

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new season under the directorship of M. Guy Sennier begins at the French Cultural Centre this week with an exhibition by Syrian artist Mustafa Chaaban.

Entitled "Le REGARD Singulier," the 26 abstract, purist paintings represent an unusual departure for this normally figurative painter. The paintings are composed of carefully-rendered geometrical shapes in only three colours — red, white and black — that interact to produce either complex or simple, almost minimalist designs of a two-dimensional character. Taken as a whole, they form a striking and arresting combination. Individually, some works are more engaging than others, particularly those where offset squares jostle with the frame of the painting, where dynamic lines taper off together in streamlined unison, or where the black gives the illusion of shadows and depth.

This collection for Chaaban has been an experiment; and, with the exhibition, this phase in his artistic development now seems complete. First conceived on tiny scraps of paper, they were a divergence from any emotional content, combined with the purity of the subject matter and the precise execution of these works, seems to have been a means for the artist to cleanse his mind, leaving him open to new influences and inspirations which will help him formulate a fresh way to approach the figure, to which he says he is returning.

Abstract art does not require any meaning, although some abstract artists do emphasise it.

Perhaps, Malevitch's "White on White" marked the farthest limit of painting's escape from its depictive role. But when an art does not possess meaning, it runs the risk of being dry and unsatisfying.

"This is, in fact, the case with some of Chaaban's work. Also,

because his work depends to

some extent on the slickness of its finish for its effect, when the finish is not perfect, as in the red-painted areas and around the edges where the painting meets

the frame, this lack of perfection de-

rimentally.

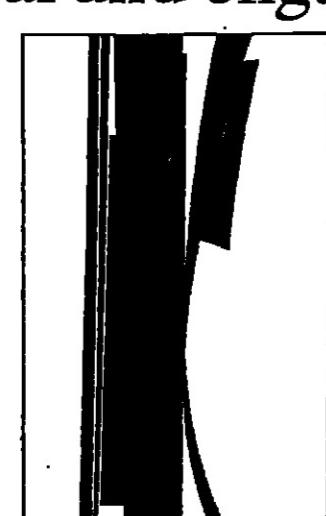
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what they are — geometric.

Signs, patterns of colours . . .



An abstract painting by Syrian artist Mustafa Chaaban.

divergence from his usual figurative form of expression, as well as from the graphic work — chiefly the design of new shapes for Arabic letters for use on transfer sheets — in which he is involved.

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Above the clamour

IN MANY ways it is gratifying and comforting to note that the foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) have criticised Israel for resuming its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories. In their most recent meeting in Brussels, they had this to say about the consistent Israeli policy of creating facts in Arab lands: "They (the foreign ministers of the European Community) consider that every new and every existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlement in the occupied territories." This first-ever collective pronouncement by the EC's foreign ministers is certainly welcome and encouraging news. Yet one would have anticipated that the voice of Europe on this issue would be louder and clearer. After all, with the superpowers engaging themselves in dire competition to gain influence in the Middle East, vying for control of events in order to secure for themselves strategic footholds in the region, it is only natural and logical to expect Europe to play a more decisive role in the Middle East politics, with a view towards securing stability and durable peace among the belligerent countries.

Moreover, we in the Middle East expect EC stands to be strong and aggressive, as Israel is known to be obstinate and certainly unamenable to friendly persuasion. Otherwise, the honourable and sound positions of the EC might suspect of being nothing more than rhetoric. The geographic proximity of Europe to the Middle East puts it in a unique position to influence and affect events in our region.

There is a tremendous concentration of power within the EC, both political and economic, which must be tapped and utilised for the cause of peace and stability. A few weeks ago, the EC took a daring stand against Israel's refusal to allow direct export of agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Western Europe. Though Israel did not budge on this issue either, the weight of Europe is being felt more and more by Israeli policy makers. What we recommend is that Western Europe use, fully, its clout, both economic and political, to influence the decision-making process in Israel with regard to the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. There are formidable commercial and financial links between the EC and Israel, and, thus far, Israel has been accorded various privileges and favoured treatment by the EC. If the EC decides to use its collective power for the positive cause of peace and stability in our region, we believe that it may succeed where the U.S. and the Soviet Union have failed.

We cannot agree more with the EC's assessment that Jewish settlements on Arab lands jeopardise the prospects for peace between Israel and its neighbours, and that progress towards a just and lasting peace depends on the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties to the conflict. In this view, one would have thought that the EC would have condemned, in the strongest terms last week's Israeli bombing of 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp, killing scores of innocent Palestinians. Peace between peoples starts in the hearts and minds of the peoples affected. Killing and injuring Palestinian children, and innocent men and women, is anything but conducive to confidence-building between the Arabs and Israel. There is no doubt that the EC appreciates this point; therefore, we expect from the EC a bold and courageous position on every occasion that warrants its intervention. This year's session of the U.N. General Assembly is a propitious occasion for the EC to let its voice be heard louder and clearer above the clamour.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Face to face with threats

PRINCE Hassan in a speech to the Arab Strategic conference placed the Arab Nation face to face with the deteriorating situation they are witnessing and the wounds which are still bleeding in the Arab World. The speech painted a gloomy picture of the situation which Prince Hassan described as dangerous; and presented the remedy which the Arabs ought to consider to end their chronic problems. Prince Hassan pointed to individual Arab states efforts for building up their own strength, and said these endeavours form parallel lines which do not cross and do not allow the efforts of one state to complement the other. As a result big gaps and holes have been left uncovered, thus opening the way for foreign powers to penetrate Arab ranks. To end the impasse Prince Hassan urged the Arab Nation to embark on strengthening their collective security which could be accomplished through political, cultural and economic cooperation. Close cooperation among Arab states will allow the nation to protect its achievements and safeguard its interests, and also foil all the hostile conspiracies being hatched by the enemies of the Arab Nation. The Prince pointed out that the Israelis and the Iranians share one goal and that is the domination of the Arab World. Iran tries to achieve its objectives the name of Islam while Israel strives to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territory as part of providing service to Western interests. Prince Hassan urged Arab states to rise to the level of responsibility and pool their resources in the face of the common danger.

Al Dustour: Arab failures

PRINCE Hassan addressed the opening session of the Arab strategic conference in Amman Tuesday by expressing his regret that despite the setbacks and the defeats inflicted on the Arabs, they have so far failed to understand the need for collective security and economic integration. Prince Hassan said that despite the achievements of individual Arab states they still fall far short of the minimum level of pan-Arab development required for a unified Arab Nation. For this reason, the Prince said, the Arab states have failed so far to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf war, the civil strife in Lebanon, the secessionist movement in south Sudan, the Libyan-Chadian war and the conflict in the Sahara desert. These conflicts continue to bleed Arab resources and deprive the Arabs of their wealth and security. Ignoring the real meaning of common destiny and collective security is bound to keep the Arabs vulnerable, weak and impotent. The defeat of 1967 was more than enough to bring the Arabs back to their senses, and the Iranian aggression on Iraq has not succeeded in uniting the Arab states to launch a joint action in the face of the common dangers. Prince Hassan said that Israel and Iran agree on one point: the dismemberment of the Arab Nation before imposing hegemony on its people. Prince Hassan's address to the conference was an open letter and candid address to all Arab leaders and masses, urging them to stop this deteriorating situation in the Arab World and embark on a meaningful action for reform and for a healthy recovery.

Mitterrand returns to the spotlight

President Mitterrand's favourable popularity rating makes it almost certain that he will stand again in next spring's presidential elections in France, while among his right-wing opponents no single figure has emerged as a sure candidate. Ian Davidson looks at the contenders.

PARIS — Mr. Roland Dumas has made a "personal" prediction that President Francois Mitterrand will stand again in next spring's presidential elections. Mr. Dumas should know: Not merely was he French foreign minister until the defeat of the socialist government in last year's general elections, he is also reputed to be one of Mr. Mitterrand's closest associates.

In itself, it is not a particularly startling prediction, especially since Mr. Dumas hedges it around with cautious reservations. Mr. Mitterrand's candidacy, he points out, somewhat superfluously, "will only be certain the day he has decided on it." And yet it is almost certainly a finely calculated intervention in the new political season, designed to bring the spotlight back to the president.

Since the return from the summer holidays, lesser politicians of every stripe, both left and right, have been cantering up and down outside the lists, suggesting either that they will enter next year's presidential joust, or that they

do not stand. Since Mr. Mitterrand's candidacy has long seemed

probable, political commentators have tended to interpret this particular pirouette more as an early bid to run in 1995 than as an attempt to upstage Mr. Mitterrand this time.

Michael Rocard, the former agriculture minister and a right-winger in the Socialist Party, appears to have a more ambiguous position; he has long shown the strongest indications of his presidential ambitions, but he is not yet committed to run. When asked to define his attitude if Mr. Mitterrand should run again, he has said no more than that it would be "respectful" — which is merely a way of not answering the question.

On the right the number of plausible candidates seems to be diminishing slightly. Shortly before the summer holidays, Francois Leotard, the bustling leader of the centrist Republican Party, had a brief run-in with Jacques Chirac, the prime minister and leader of the Gaullist RPR Party, and hinted that he might enter the presidential lists. Since then he has evidently had second thoughts: somewhat melodramatically, he has fixed a later date for announcing the withdrawal of his non-candidacy, but he has rather spoiled the effect by mak-

U.N. chief reports on mission

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein has visited Switzerland several times. He was in Lausanne in 1952 when he heard he had been proclaimed king at the age of 16.

Mr. Borne said the trip was official rather than a state visit as West German President Richard von Weizsaecker had already made the only state visit permitted each year by Swiss law.

But he said protocol had been upgraded and the King's visit would receive almost the same treatment as for a state visit.

Bilateral relations and cooperation are also expected to figure in the King's talks with Swiss leaders.

Swiss trade with Jordan is one-

sided. Swiss exports were worth about \$34 million last year and about \$13 million in the first six months of this year, embassy figures show. Jordanian exports to Switzerland are negligible.

Switzerland signed a credit agreement with Jordan last year to finance development projects. The Swiss government agreed to provide one third of the funds as a soft loan, with the rest coming from Swiss commercial banks at market rates.

No project has yet been funded under the scheme, partly because the strong Swiss franc has made Swiss companies less competitive than rival bidders, analysts say.

Mr. Borne cited pharmacology and computerisation as areas where Switzerland might furnish technical or scientific help.

Commenting on Iran's demand that the council brand Iraq as "the aggressor" and mete out "punishment," Mr. Ghebo suggested the 15-nation body accept that Iraq was the aggressor, but not say so in such a way that Iraq would be "dragged into court and forced to pay reparations."

Mr. Ghebo was one of the council members whose reluctance to support the July ceasefire resolution prolonged the negotiations about its text.

A U.S. diplomat said Tuesday

Secretary of State George Shultz was to discuss an arms embargo against Iran with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said the Soviets were not expected to stand in the way of such a measure.

Mr. Murphy said he was optimistic the Security Council would

adopt such an embargo if Mr. Perez de Cuellar returns from his Gulf tour without clear Iranian acceptance of a ceasefire.

In London, the Kuwaiti foreign minister called on the Security Council on Wednesday to impose an arms embargo against Iran following the U.N. secretary general's apparent failure to secure a ceasefire in the war.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on a tour of Moscow, London and Paris to seek sanctions against Iran, stopped short of calling for an oil boycott of Tehran. He said revenues from oil enabled Iran to continue the Gulf war.

"The time is ripe in the wake of

Iran's refusal to accept the U.N. resolution to impose sanctions against Iran," he told a news conference in London. "As far as buying Iranian oil is concerned, there will be consultations," he added.

The foreign minister won assurances from Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Tuesday that Britain would endorse sanctions if Mr. Perez de Cuellar's mission failed.

Iraqis resume air attacks

(Continued from page 1)

tters that all 15 members of the squad escaped. He said he was the only one who was hurt.

"They (the Israelis) spotted us only 15 metres away from the border of the zone. We fought with them for a long time," he said.

Israeli sources said in Tel Aviv search parties found leaflets, weapons and explosives near the scene of the clash outside Ain Ata village, indicating that the fighters intended to take hostages.

The clash began when fighters opened fire on the Israeli patrol from a distance of 40 metres near Kfar Cheba, two kilometres north of the Israeli border, Israeli army radio said.

The village is located inside Israel's self-designed "security zone," a 10-to-15 kilometre-wide zone patrolled by hundreds of Israeli soldiers and about 1,500 SLA militiamen.

Israeli army radio said Israeli troops captured one Lebanese fighter and found pamphlets indicating the group belonged to the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF).

A wounded fighter told reporters

that all 15 members of the squad escaped. He said he was the only one who was hurt.

Lebanese sources quoted by AP said 14 fighters from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Lebanese Communist Party were involved in the clash with the Israelis near the hamlet of Shweiba, 10 kilometres from the border.

The squad was on its way to Israel to stage an attack within Israel, according to reports.

The DFLP, which is headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, is the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) second largest guerrilla group.

Sources quoted by Reuter said Israeli tanks, warplanes, infantry and helicopter gunships scoured the Bekaa Valley no-man's land between Syrian and Israeli lines near the scene of Tuesday's attack for nearly a day.

An Israeli commando unit landed in a helicopter 100 metres from where the fighters were hiding but did not spot them, a source close to the fighters said.

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First catch your sunbeam, then frame it

As yet solar energy is too expensive and inefficient to fuel power stations but two recent discoveries are helping it to catch up on its traditional competitors, nuclear power and fossil fuel, says Paul Simmons of *The Guardian*.

YOU'VE heard it all before — solar power is clean, useful and lasts indefinitely. So why do we still have nuclear and fossil-burning power stations? Answer: solar power is not as cheap or efficient enough. The cost of making solar-powered electric cells is too high and the sunlight too diffuse to use effectively. Yes, there are special uses like space vehicles and low powered calculators and watches. But power stations are a completely different kettle of fish.

Yet slowly and surely solar cells are closing in on their old competitors. The technology is approaching the stage at which million-watt power stations could be built, perhaps by the end of the century. Two different breakthroughs are casting solar energy in a new light. New materials based on glasses or alloys are raising the efficiency of solar cells. And although reflecting sunlight with mirrors on to solar cells is too expensive, there could be a completely new way of funneling light efficiently on to solar cells, using a technique more familiar to illuminated fountains and fluorescent watches.

Alternatively, new semiconductor alloys with exotic names such as copper indium diselenide, cadmium telluride and gallium arsenide or alloys of silicon glass combined with carbon or germanium or nitrogen offer a whole range of new cells. Thin wafers of these could be stacked one on top of another to make more use of the light spectrum. For instance, the top one could collect blue light, the cell below collects red light, and so on. The resulting module could then be arranged in a series.

As for collecting the sunlight, the breakthrough here is in coupling two different phenomena — total internal reflection of light, and fluorescence.

Just over 100 years ago, the English physicist John Tyndall shone a beam of light through a jet of water poured out sideways from a flask. As the water bent

downwards, so the light inside curved with it — the first scientific demonstration of total internal reflection. The edges of the water jet trapped the light beam inside, by bouncing them back inside each time they tried to escape. The trick is to shine the light from the inside of the water.

Now instead of water, take a sheet of solid transparent glass or plastic. They also trap light by total internal reflection, provided the light shines in at a crucial angle. And there's the problem — getting the angle of light just right. But dope the material with a fluorescent chemical, and you have a light source already sitting inside the glass/plastic. When the sun shines, the dye glows, and much of its fluorescence is trapped by total internal reflection.

The same phenomenon also pipes and concentrates the light to the edges of the sheet where a strip of solar cell below collects the intense light. And there you have a luminescent solar concentrator.

Catch is that the fluorescent dye absorbs some light without reflecting it, and it also deteriorates in sunlight. But the German chemical industry has come to the rescue with a range of surprisingly stable new dyes, the polycyclic fluorescent dyes. Some of these have been tested continually outdoors for several years with very little deterioration. The irony is that these new dyes can be

boosted with fluorescence from Uranium 238 — providing more power than its more short-lived brother uranium 235 used in nuclear reactors. The main limit now is the size of the solar luminescent concentrator — one square metre — to which the solar cell will have to be limited.

High costs have delayed the advent of large scale solar cell power generating plants. In 1974 the price of generating power from solar cells in the U.S. would have been over 35 per kilowatt-hour whereas fossil fuels and nuclear generators cost between five to ten cents per kilowatt-hour.

Already solar costs are down to 30 cents per kilowatt-hour. At the same rate of progress, solar costs are expected to reach 8 cents per kilowatt-hour by 1995.

Solar cell power stations have already been built, ranging up to 1 megawatt in size. Stations are being built in the U.S., Italy, Saudi Arabia and West Germany. Japan is operating more than 10 plants between 3 to 200 kilowatts, and a one-megawatt plant built by the New Energy Development Organisation began operating in 1985. And when the solar cells eventually feed the power grids, the full benefits of solar power will at last be realised — clean, inexhaustible, virtually free of maintenance, mass-produced in factories and quick to assemble into power plants. And then the age of fossil fuels will be eclipsed.

The real Pasolini: More gadfly than creator

By Thomas Quinn Curtiss

PIER PAOLO PASOLINI, who was a symbol of postwar changes in politics and in sexual mores before his violent death in 1975, has become a period figure whose films are now taught in universities rather than banned.

A sympathetic portrait of Pasolini by Ezio Siciliano, a Milanese journalist and author — now published in English by the Bloomsbury Press of London — provides a running commentary of the zigzag history of postwar Italy against which the director-poet rose to fame.

Born in Bologna in 1922, the son of an army officer and a doting mother, Pasolini was a precocious child, in his school-days already writing lyric blank verse and contemplating political reforms for the betterment of his countrymen. He was not the common bookworm weakling, keeping in physical trim by participating in soccer games, swimming competitions and bicycling excursions.

Pasolini met Pasolini after he held a stormy press conference in Rome in 1967. Then in his early 40s, he was not at all the expected wild type. This reckless iconoclast in person was a courteous, smiling man of mild, modest manner. He talked of Greek tragedy and his vision of "The Oresteia" for Vittorio Gassman; of acting and direction; of the authors who had influenced him and of the ideas that guided him.

Pasolini went on to outline a film he was preparing. It was the underdog and roamed the Rome's shanty towns to record what he saw in two novels relating the lot of the excluded. He drew the grim background with some stylist flashes, but he was an outsider looking in.

Federico Fellini engaged him as an assistant and scenario and soon Pasolini was making his first film, "Accattone," set in a shabby community on the Rome outskirts and acted by inhabitants of that wasteland. He followed it with a similar study of the dispossessed, "Mamma Roma," with Anna Magnani. Both films met with censorship that brought him to national attention. This pleased him for he enjoyed vexing the authorities.

"I love life fiercely, desperately," he announced. "And I believe this will carry me to the end.

How will it end? I don't know. I am scandalous. I am so to the extent that I stretch a cord between the sacred and the profane."

He courted the sacred by producing a film on the life of Christ, "The Gospel According to Saint Matthew." It was designed to refute the bombastic Biblical spectacles from Hollywood. He and many of his admirers believed that his method was unique, although long before D.W. Griffith had woven the Christ story into his epic, "Intolerance," to contrast it with the gaudy grandeur of the Babylonian court.

The premiere of his screen adaptation of "Oedipus Rex" had a mixed reception at the Venice festival in 1967. The nays were in the majority. They denounced the film as a travesty of a classic and criticised his protege Franco Citti, who played the tragic king, for his delivery and his lack of regal presence.

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thought in exotic magic it was inferior to the exotic fantasy of Douglas Fairbanks's "The Thief of Bagdad," but "The Canterbury Tales" descended to burlesque humour and even inserted a Charlie Chaplin figure into its medieval midst. In his final film, "Salo, or the 120 Days of Sodom," he appeared intent on dramatising sado-masochistic obsessions.

On Nov. 2, 1975, his battered body was found on a deserted field outside Rome. He had been murdered by a homosexual prostitute but, from the evidence that Siciliano presents, the possibility exists that the youth had not acted alone, that the crime was politically motivated. Mystery continues to hover over the case.

In retrospect Pasolini seems to have been more gadfly than creator.

— International Herald Tribune.

Marijuana may aid glaucoma sufferers

The marijuana plant, source of an illegal drug, will soon be used in the treatment of glaucoma, an eye disease which can cause blindness. Canute James in Kingston describes how researchers have had to overcome official prejudice against the plant in order to wage their fight against the disease.

KINGSTON — Sufferers from glaucoma, an ailment of the eye which can lead to blindness, will soon have a chance to obtain treatment from a medicine derived from an unusual source. A decade of research in the Caribbean to find a treatment for glaucoma has ended with the start of commercial marketing of a drug prepared from the marijuana plant.

The treatment is now being marketed in the Commonwealth Caribbean with the start of commercial production last month by AMTEC Chemicals, a Jamaican firm. Mr. Richard Wells, the company's general manager, says a major hospital in Britain, which he did not name, has asked for samples of the marijuana extract. A request for approval of the drug from the United States Food and Drug Administration will be made when the manufacturers are able to finance it.

Glaucoma, for which there is no known cure, is brought on by high intraocular pressure which damages the optic nerve. It leads to blindness if untreated, and is one of the leading causes of blindness in many parts of the developing world. The pressure is caused by a build-up of liquids in the

eyeball, and impaired vision is usually the first sign of the problem. It is traditionally treated by drugs which temporarily reduce intraocular pressure, or by eye surgery.

The research and identification of an active agent in marijuana which significantly lowers intraocular pressure was carried out by Professor Manley West of Jamaica, head of the pharmacology department of the University of the West Indies, and Dr. Albert Lockhart of St. Vincent, a former head of the ophthalmology department of the Kingston Public Hospital.

The treatment is applied as eye drops from bottles of five millilitres each, which are now being marketed. The active ingredient of the marijuana derivative represents 0.1 per cent of the treatment.

"There is no danger of a patient becoming addicted to marijuana by using this treatment," Mr. Wells explains. "The narcotic component of the marijuana is taken out altogether, and one advantage of this treatment is that it is not absorbed into the bloodstream."

The development of the treatment from marijuana was based on guinea pigs after the first extracts

from marijuana were produced in 1976. Their intraocular pressure was measured and compared before and after applications of the treatment. When they showed no ill effects from the use of the eye drops made from marijuana, the tests were done on humans. The treatment proved to be successful.

The formula is a closely guarded scientific and commercial secret. "It is protected under patent," reports Mr. Wells. As word of the success of the research spread through the medical community, unsuccessful efforts were made by drug companies to purchase the formula for the treatment.

The work of the two Caribbean researchers is likely to increase interest in other possible medicinal qualities of marijuana. With the success of efforts to find a treatment for glaucoma, there are already suggestions within medicinal circles in the Caribbean that the marijuana plant could eventually provide the basis for an even more important development — a cure for glaucoma. There are also indications that extracts from the plant can be used to treat terminal cases of cancer.

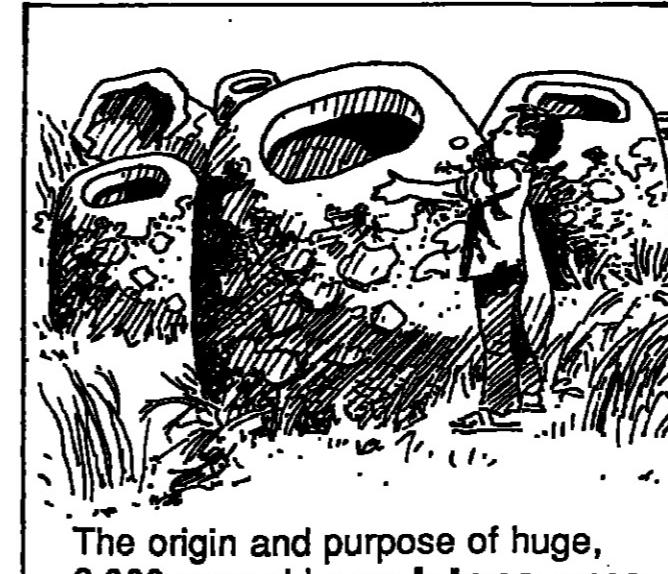
Jamaican folk medicine, vindicated by the breakthrough in the treatment of glaucoma, also holds that tea made from the marijuana plant can cure asthma, and the flu, and diarrhoea — Financial Times feature.

Rabbits and dogs were the

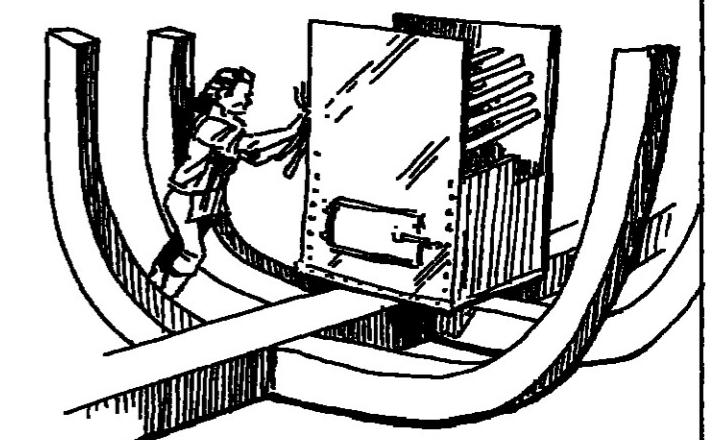
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC



Beginning in the 1840s, commercial whalers hunted gray whales in their breeding lagoons along the Baja California coast and later in their northern range, reducing the eastern Pacific stock to a nearly fatal level.



The origin and purpose of huge, 2,000-year-old sandstone urns that lie on the Plain of Jars in central Laos remain uncertain.



American inventor James Rumsey, not popularly credited with inventing the steamboat, designed a water-tube boiler in the 18th century that eventually became the world standard for all steam engines, from power plants to ocean liners.



The largest known outbreak of tornadoes within a 24-hour period, 148, hit the United States April 3-4, 1974, killing 315 people.

Asilah: Tourism without tears

By Jean-Pierre Peroncel-Hugoz

"MOUSSEM". From this Arab word meaning "season," the French made "mousson" (monsoon). In Morocco, a moussem is also a popular gathering of Muslims that falls at a regular time. Now the word designates a regularly held cultural event, a festival if you like.

At Asilah, the word has acquired a new and non-specialist significance. Asilah, a small town set down by the Phoenicians long ago on the Atlantic coast a little to the south of the Pillars of Hercules and which has since become — right up to this day — a sort of miniature of sherifian urban civilisation.

In 1978, a few local men from the ranks of journalists and diplomats, like Mohamed Benissa, or painters, like Mohamed Melehi, got together to discuss what they could do to spare Asilah, a fragile community in every respect, the shock of European tourism which, having knocked down the Spanish barrier, was thrusting southwards.

These young people founded the El Moult (Ocean) Association and undertook artistic creation as a shield. Painters exhibited their canvases, poets recited their verses and a few airmen took note and even sometimes talked about it. That was Asilah's first cultural moussem.

On the whole, though, people remained sceptical, but since then the event, doggedly mounted year after year, has succeeded in attracting the attention of Italian creative people like the writer Alberto Moravia and film director Ettore Scola, of Senegalese statesman Leopold Sedar Senghor, Crown Prince Hassan, the Sudanese novelist Tayeb Saleh, the Indian musician Ravi Shankar, and Japanese, Polish and Portuguese artists. And, of course, the Moroccan intelligentsia, from the popular Arabic-speaking short-story writer Mohamed Choucri (his violent "Bare

lians and Sindhis, heated discussions took place among experts championing the various Indian, Pakistani, Turkish, Moroccan and even Palestinian theories as to the geographical route taken by a vocal and rhythmic art which in any case reached its full flowering in Andalucia.

Even the eminent Istanbul sociologist Metin Atil had agreed to come with his Bosphorus French, Ottoman politeness and Anatolian stubbornness. He was one of the treats of the Moussem. The Spaniards were dumbfounded that a Turk should be so versed in, and enthusiastic about, "their" flamenco.

France sent the wife of Minister of Culture Francois Lecourt for the opening of the Moussem (the minister himself, it must be said, had previously been on a visit to Morocco). This year, in addition to the Ministry of Culture, the Quai d'Orsay and the Maison des Cultures du Monde in Paris also made significant contributions to the Moussem proper and its fringe activities, such as the summer university. The series on flamenco, for example, owed much to Cherif Khaznadar, the French-Syrian director of the Maison des Cultures du Monde in Paris, which will doubtless soon follow up with a sequel to the Asilah symposium.

Will it be said that France has jumped on the Moussem bandwagon because it is doing well? The few French visitors, and I am one of them, who long before the moussem appreciated Asilah's mint-and-milk streets, its traders, grandees and extremely well-behaved children, believed that holding a "cultural" event would only hasten the process of turning this little Ibero-Arabic town into another Saint-Tropez.

The facts again speak for Mohamed Benissa and his group when you discover the vast cultural centre they have just had built by the Casablanca architectural firm of Farahoui and Demazières inside the town opposite the Great Mosque and the site of the former Spanish military stables. Moroccan palace-building art has succeeded in moulding concrete to its will. It is an Islamic architectural success that should interest the Aga Khan Prize jury — Le Monde.

Without cheapening itself, without ripping anyone off. It is almost too good, if not to be true, at least to last.

The "major project" the Moroccan press is talking about these days gives one the shivers: should they build a "Moorish marina" or an "aqualand" or a "concrete turned into an esplanade" and even a "lagoon"? Why stop there, why not a kasbah in Bora-Bora?

Mohamed Benissa, who has come a long way since the first moussem, becoming mayor of Asilah and later Minister of Cultural Affairs, is confident that "what we must first do is increase hotel accommodation in all categories to meet the growing demand, mostly from Moroccans: the site will be preserved and restored as it has been for the past ten years."

Here, the facts speak for the mayor. But will he be strong enough to withstand the success abroad and the demand from the local people? A whole category of middle-class Moroccans coming from Tangiers, Fez, Meknes and Casablanca would like to bring their children to the Raissouli Palace, where the Moussem is held, or the Theatre of the Sea. At the Palace, you paint, you model in clay to your heart's content; at the theatre, you applaud the French-North African singer Karim Kacel or the Moroccan group Jil Jilala.

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Drawings by Stokes Walesby
© National Geographic Society

Syria snatches two golds in Mediterranean Games

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Fresh from gold medal triumphs in wrestling and gymnastics, Syria advanced towards further medals on Wednesday with a 3-0 shutout of Cyprus in men's volleyball, and Italy took more victories in diving.

The Syrian victory before a cheering, drum-beating crowd sets up a showdown on Thursday with Italy that will determine who had the advantage in the finals next week. Italy thumped Lebanon 3-0 on Wednesday.

Italy's Oscar Bertone scored a strong 549.90 to win the men's platform diving gold medal over teammate Piero Italiani — winner of the springboard competition earlier.

Syria scored three gold medals on Tuesday as the Italian monopoly on the victory stands of the 18-nation tournament cracked, with strong showings by Yugoslavia, Spain and the host country.

Spain's Laura Munoz stole the gymnastics show with three gold medals in the uneven bars, horse vault and floor exercise to go with her crown in the women's individual all-around and a team gold.

Her five gold medals topped the achievement of Italy's Gior-

kilogramme class in Greco-Roman wrestling, followed by Ayman Rihawi at 62 kgs.

It followed with a conquest by gymnast Alaaeldin Namo in the men's floor exercise.

Yugoslavia entered the gold medal tables with Greco-Roman wrestling victories by Emil Traubert in the 100-kg class, Franc Podlesek at 74 kgs and Nando Sabo at 68 kgs.

Turkey's strong wrestling team, which had entered the tournament hoping for a few golds, had to settle for three bronze metals and one silver in the 82-kg class for Mustafa Suzan.

Italy, whose 441-member team is outnumbered only by that of Syria, the hosts, collected three golds in the men's and women's gymnastics on Tuesday.

Basketball

Turkey continued a winning streak in the men's basketball tournament in Aleppo, beating Greece 77-66 to record a third successive victory.

Syria met their second defeat in the six-nation round-robin when Tunisia beat them 80-70, while Spain, which lost to Turkey on Monday 62-63, trounced Leba-

non 142-62.

France, in third place on the medal table with four golds, opened their defence of the soccer title in style by outclassing Algeria 4-0. Philippe Prieur scored a hat-trick for France, which squandered several second-half chances.

Greece, playing in the same soccer group, pipped an attractive Moroccan side 1-0 against the run of play. The lone goal was scored by Penang Tsalouchidis.

The other group opens its matches in Aleppo on Wednesday when Syria takes on Turkey and San Marino, the outsiders, play Lebanon.

The Albanian women's basketball team, competing in a four-nation round-robin tournament in Aleppo, should have no difficulty accounting for Syria on Wednesday. The team produced an impressive display of skills to defeat Turkey on Monday.

Turkey, previously the favourites, plays spirited but technically weak Lebanese side.

In Damascus, Syria were held to a 15-15 draw in the men's handball tournament on Tuesday, while Spain beat Lebanon 43-8. In the women's competition, Italy edged past France 15-14.

Arabs' first gold

Syria won the Arab countries' first gold on the wrestling mat, when Khaled Faraj won the 48-

kg

lbers said Wednesday.

Lee Jae-Hong, relations director for the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOC) said a formal response would be issued by Kim Chong-Ha, president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, Sept. 20 in Seoul.

Kim was en route to Switzerland on Wednesday to meet with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch for discussions on the North's request.

"We consider their proposal favourably," Lee said. "The people in Seoul consider it in a positive way. Why not? The door has always been open."

But Lee said SLOC and the South Korean Olympic Committee wanted to discuss the matter with the IOC before formally

responding.

"For the last two years, the negotiations have been with the IOC, and we want to consult with the IOC on the matter," Lee said.

Park Seh-Jik, SLOC President, was meeting with the IOC's executive board Wednesday to deliver report on preparations for the games, just one year away.

Park declined to comment on the North's proposal on his way into the meeting.

The proposal for direct talks left Samaranch groping for words on Tuesday.

"Yes and no," the IOC president said when asked if he saw any encouraging signs in the North's plan. He said the decision on whether to accept the call was entirely up to the South Koreans.

At the same time, Samaranch

stressed that North Korea had no chance of getting any answer but "no" to two old, but just-repeated, requests — to hold a fifth set of joint, IOC-mediated talks without first accepting a two-month-old settlement package and to postpone the issuing of invitations to the Seoul Games set for Thursday.

The North says the talks are deadlocked and direct negotiations are needed because of "fundamental differences in the positions" of the two countries. It was threatened to boycott the games if its co-host demands are ignored.

The North Korean proposal for direct negotiations was contained in a letter delivered Tuesday in Seoul to the South Korean Olympic Committee.

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Seoul likely to accept direct Olympic parley with Pyongyang

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Agencies) — Seoul Olympic officials are inclined to accept a call for direct talks with North Korea on co-hosting the 1988 games, a spokesman for the orga-

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FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. A. El Hameed Fadi	M. Hatim	Owner	Suleiman	54.5
2. Thamir Haza Hadeed	Bancon	Owner	Kasim	54.5
3. Moteed Mohammad	Ghazalan	Owner	Mwakal	53
4. Khalaf Yousef Rwidan	El Ahmad	Owner	Fawaz	53
5. Atallah Farhan	S. El Naseem	Owner	Amjad	51.5
6. A. El Latif Abdullah	Fadwa	Owner	Rami	51.5
7. Hisham Mohammad	K. Bassam	Owner	Basil	48.5
8. Salman Hisham Nabolsy	M. Salman	Owner	George	48.5
9. Mohammad Khalid Maney	E. Shakhrah	Owner	Yousef	48.5
10. Khalid Mohammad	B. Hisban	Owner	Samy	48.5
11. Mikhrid Dawesh Barkheet	S. Mkhrid	Owner	Rashied	48.5
12. Shihab Aly Fokara	F. Rady	Owner	Ezed	48.5
13. Dr. A. El Naeem A. Wandy	N. Meen	Owner		48.5
14. Khalid Abdullah	E. Shakesh	Owner	Abdullah	50
15. Raed Mida Sawaeer	Azab	Owner	Ahmad	48.5

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. A. Jaber Badir	Wardh	Owner	Ebed	54.5
2. Ghaleb Haddadin	Wihlas	Owner	George	51.5
3. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	Kareem	Abbas	Fawaz	50
4. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	Mashallah	Abbas	50	
5. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	E. El Khalil	Abbas	50	
6. Khalil Ghaddadin	E. El Mahe	Owner	Ebed	50
7. Nimir El Hmoud	Sahil	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
8. Younis Salim Fokara	S. Salim	Owner	Thamin	48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Ahmad Aly Faid	Basil	Owner	Fawaz	54.5
2. Mohammad Salim Rabayah	R. El Fata	Ebed	54.5	
3. Oudith El Khaisey	D. Maen	Owner	50	
4. A. El Latif Salim	Bader	Owner	Kasim	54.5
5. Salim A. El kareem Ktifen	A. Jaghef	Owner	Yousef	48.5
6. Michel Milah El Faris	Ram	Owner	Rashied	48.5
7. Nef El Hadeed	A. Maday	Owner	A. Maday	48.5
8. Dr. A. El Hafez A. Wandy	T. Khald	Owner	A. Amarah	54.5
9. Samir Khalid Haddadin	Gharrandal	Owner	Sary	48.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Bas4 Youssef Awadilh	Ghareeb	Owner		56
2. Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	El Midhalih	Moushin	Kasim	55.5
3. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	Azzih	Abbas	Fawaz	54.5
4. Samy Haddadin	Jahr	George	53	
5. Sali El Din El Iji	El Rayah	Owner	Ahmed	51.5
6. Nimir El Hmoud	B. Ghool	Mahmoud	50	
7. Ghazy A. Jaber	M. Naja	Owner	Yousef	48.5
8. Sarf Ghazy A. Jaber	Moharrar	Owner	Fawaz	48.5
9. Yousef Rahhal	W. El Sili	Owner		56

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 2200 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17-18, 1987 7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6450/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3165/70	Canadian dollar
	1.8115/20	West German marks
	2.0375/85	Dutch guilders
	1.5015/25	Swiss francs
	37.56/59	Belgian francs
	6.0400/50	French francs
1307/1308	Italian lira	
145.75/85	Japanese yen	
6.3725/75	Swedish crowns	
6.6375/6425	Norwegian crowns	
6.9750/9800	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	458.30/80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were firmer after a lower opening, with a string of encouraging company results outweighing Wednesday's lower Wall Street market opening, dealers said.

At 1454 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 9.8 points at 2,274.3 after an early low of 2,260.1 and a high of 2,278 at 1053 GMT. Tuesday's Wall Street decline prompted Wednesday morning's falls, but dealers said trading continued to be subdued ahead of Friday's U.K. August money supply and bank lending information. Thursday's U.K. July average earnings data will also determine the market's short-term course as the figures might give clues to inflationary pressures in the U.K. economy, dealers said.

The market was also underpinned by news U.K. industrial production data for July showed a higher than-expected overall rise of 2.2 per cent after June's 1.3 per cent fall. Manufacturing output rose 1.6 per cent in July after a 0.1 per cent fall in June.

Wednesday's other important U.K. economic indicator showed a public sector borrowing requirement for August of £750 million. This was less than the forecast £1.25 billion but dealers said the data has long been distorted by privatisation receipts and is no longer closely watched.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today presents some excellent opportunities for making solid and reasonable plans for the near future. If you don't seize these opportunities, you'll miss out on some considerable fortune.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Use your talents to plan some valuable improvements to your property. Try not to be独裁者 (dictator) here, but establish more harmony there instead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Some research which will help you to become more efficient. After running around all day, try not to drive tonight. This evening is best spent quietly at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Arrange your financial situation so that you can save more money for needed recreation, and try to be financially helpful to your mate. Be considerate and kind.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Invite some interesting people into your home, but only those who you truly like. Be courteous and kind, and you can reap some really big rewards.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) If you would simply take the time to plan things out, some intimate desires can become realities. Plan your schedule so that cocktail time can be spent with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) By spending just a little more money, you can gain that personal aim quite easily with the help of a family friend. Be generous at a group meeting for a charity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use your charm and magnetism to get some fine results and added prestige in the business world. Some introductions by a superior

could be rewarding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get the OK of an expert, or a new plan could lose you a good deal of money. Listen, also, to your mate's advice, and turn possible failure into a big success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you make the aid of a good friend, a promise can be kept easily. Do something in the evening which will please your mate even though it may hurt you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get a credit difficulty nicely settled by using tact and a little flattery. Get some advice from an associate which can help you get a public project moving rapidly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some new business methods can help you improve profits and shine in the eyes of superiors. Although you feel that a trip should be cancelled, it needn't be.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Accept an invitation, but only if it includes your mate, and have a wonderful evening together. Be very careful in any motion today, driving or walking.

MY Young Child Is Born Today He or she will have much love for home and kin, and will do best when operating from that sphere. Much success can be wrought in such professions as home management, real estate, etc. Teach your progeny while young to keep the business and personal aspects of life well separated. Ethical and moral training are a must here.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1987

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get any important matters settled early. A few compliments would help in this area. If you delay, later on you'll have trouble expressing yourself and probably be ignored. Try to remain cheerful.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show more affection for those who mean a great deal to you. It is not a good idea to try forcing your opinions on anyone. Formulate a good plan first. Drive carefully today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Morning is the best time to solve a troubling family matter. Don't let a friend hurt your feelings with comments which are unintentional. Don't entertain guests.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't be annoyed by gossip or criticism which should be ignored. If going on a trip, leave early since heavy traffic will annoy you. The evening brings happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get a financial difficulty settled early. You'll feel confused and distracted later. Look around your home for possible repairs, but don't begin them.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A charming attitude this morning will get you some favours you need. It would be most unwise to criticize a friend this afternoon. Avoid socializing this evening. Get some rest.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't let your heartbreaks over a private matter prevent you from handling outside duties. Take no unnecessary risks. Avoid hurting your mate's feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An early morning surprise will please you, but your mood could be brought down by friends. Postpone those social engagements; relax and

British brewing company to run international Holiday Inn hotels

LONDON (R) — Bass Plc, a big British brewing firm, said on Tuesday it is buying into 178 Holiday Inn hotels in a \$475 million deal that means it will run all Holiday Inns outside the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Only two weeks ago, Ladbrooke Group, a British property and leisure firm that made its name in the betting shop and casino business, bought the Hilton International hotel chain for \$1.06 billion.

British businesses, flush with cash and riding a stock market boom, have been snapping up U.S. firms or their assets all year.

For Bass, the deal allows it to join the select band of major international hotel companies and enjoy a brand name with worldwide recognition," said group managing director, Mr. Ian Prosser.

The British, in the heyday of empire, dotted the globe with famous hotels. But after World

War II, U.S. hoteliers made the running, led by the late Conrad Hilton who tapped a market among a new generation of globe trotting Americans.

The British started a comeback when Grand Metropolitan bought the Intercontinental chain from Pan Am in 1981.

But the British are not just looking at hotels.

This summer, Hanson Trust Plc announced it would buy U.S. consumer products firm Kidde Inc. in a \$1.8 billion deal, the British employment agency Blue Arrow Plc bid \$1.2 billion for Manpower Inc. and National Westminster Bank Plc bought a New Jersey bank for \$220 million.

Earlier this year, British Petroleum bought out all the other shareholders in Standard Oil Co.

for \$7.8 billion.

Inflation in Israel reaches 20%

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Tuesday the cost of living rose 1.2 per cent in August, bringing the rate for the last 12 months to 20 per cent.

Meanwhile, Israel's United Mizrahi Bank introduced a limited form of forward trading in Israel's shekel currency based on the Bank of Israel's official representative exchange rate for the mark 20 per cent.

The move is a cautious step towards liberalising foreign exchange regulations which bar private citizens from holding hard currency.

The Bank of Israel fixes its rates daily but fluctuations are

marginal. The shekel has been pegged since January 1987 against a basket of currencies in which the dollar accounts for 60 per cent and the West German mark 20 per cent.

Inflation in Israel reaches 20%

per cent.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. commercial banks reported record losses of \$10.6 billion between April and June mainly because of problem loans to Third World countries, the government said on Tuesday.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) said the loss was the result of the nation's largest banks setting aside huge reserves from their profits to cover potential losses on the loans to developing countries.

He said the policy was paying off and the number of problem cases reported to Indonesian embassies abroad had cut by half.

The Indonesian government has decided against restricting the number of those sent abroad, saying they are a useful source of foreign exchange for the country and only a few encountered problems.

The second-quarter loss was expected since individual banks had already reported quarterly financial results that reflected the impact of the loan-loss provisions.

FDIC Chairman William Seidman said the industry had probably passed its worst quarter. The large provisions against loan losses would not be repeated and may have strengthened the industry in the long run, he said.

However, he said banks were continuing to fail at a record rate, reflecting the impact of regional economic problems on small banks.

A total of 126 banks have failed so far this year, compared to 138 in 1986, with the greatest number in the southwest and midwest. Mr. Seidman predicted 200 banks would be closed by end of 1987.

Banks set aside an unprecedented \$21.2 billion to protect against future losses on foreign loans, primarily to Brazil.

The IMF will play a key role in the effort to get nations to see that their economies, measured by key indicators, perform in line with agreed expectations embodied in IMF forecasts.

The mere fact that finance ministers will discuss it in forthcoming talks is a step forward, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker says.

"We are a heck of a lot better off today than we were a year and a half ago, when — I can promise you — we didn't have meaningful meetings," Mr. Baker said this week.

"We had a little 'tour de table' where everybody recited what their economies' prospects were,

Report paints gloomy picture of world economy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported Tuesday a slowing of growth in industrial countries, a decline in real primary commodity prices, a widening of external imbalances, an intensification of protectionist measures, and a further deterioration in the external financial situation of many developing countries.

In its annual report covering 1986 and the early part of 1987, the IMF said there was sharp deterioration in many countries' terms of trade resulting from the decline in the prices of oil and non-oil commodities relative to manufacturers.

The consequent loss in export receipts led not only to a worsening of the current accounting positions but also a weakening of fiscal revenues, the report said.

At the same time, it said, net private international lending to developing countries, which had been shrinking since the onset of the debt crisis in 1982, fell even more in 1986.

"In the fuel exporting countries, the loss of revenue from lower oil prices led to cutbacks in government expenditures and in imports, especially for those countries with a limited capacity to borrow or to liquidate foreign assets," it said.

On the positive side, the report noted that the decline in international interest rates during 1986 eased the pressure on developing countries with a large amount of floating rate debt.

"For a number of oil importing developing countries, notably some Asian exporters of manufactures, the decline in interest rates and oil prices permitted an easing of restrictive fiscal stances and the achievement of improved creditworthiness through reserves accumulation and debt repayments," the report said.

The report noted that these benefits did not extend to low-income countries in Africa, which incurred sizeable losses in export receipts and in associated fiscal revenues, although the implementation measures in these countries appeared to have strengthened in 1986.

And statements by Washington, Tokyo and Bonn suggest that they may ignore IMF advice and differ sharply on what to do next in talks among finance ministers late next week.

Monetary officials say the IMF will present detailed forecasts of economic indicators and analysis of the economies of the group of seven nations — the United Nations, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — at the talks.

S. Korea targets exports at \$51b

SEOUL (AP) — The trade and industry ministry has set South Korea's export target for 1988 at \$51 billion, up 15.9 per cent from this year's adjusted target of \$44 billion, officials said Tuesday.

The ministry officials said the government aims at \$45 billion in imports, which would leave a trade surplus of \$6 billion next year.

The ministry officials said the government aims to help reduce its growing trade surplus with the United States, which stood at \$7.3 billion last year.

The ministry officials said the government's planned measures are necessary to help Korean industries rebuild export competitiveness that has been weakened by sharp wage hikes resulting from a recent wave of strikes.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS

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"I haven't charged anything in 3 weeks! If you listen carefully you can hear my credit card weeping!"

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACOC
JOUMB
YURNUL
EXGONY

SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY SUBJECT SOME KIDS STUDY IN SCHOOL THESE DAYS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Indian general promises to protect Sri Lankans from militant Tigers

COLOMBO (R) — A top Indian general promised on Wednesday to protect Sri Lankans from marauding Tamil militants who massacred 75 people.

But General Depinder Singh, commander of the Indian army's Southern Command, gave no assurance that his peace-keeping troops would disarm the gunmen.

Gen. Singh, who is based in Madras, told civic leaders in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Batticaloa he was ready to send extra troops to prevent more massacres by the militant Tamil Tigers group.

He flew in to meet 40 Tamil and Muslim civic leaders soon after suspected Tigers gunmen claimed another victim, with the murder of a local government official in the tense government.

Simultaneously, 500 angry women and schoolchildren paraded through Batticaloa to protest at the violence between the rival Tamil groups that has claimed nearly 150 lives in north and eastern Sri Lanka in two weeks.

The killings have aroused fears for the future of the island's seven-week-old peace accord that ended four years of fighting between Tamil separatists and government forces.

U.S. department 'lax' with nuclear technology

WASHINGTON (R) — Countries developing nuclear weapons have routinely gained sensitive nuclear technology because of lax security rules at the U.S. Energy Department, according to a congressional report.

The highly critical report, prepared by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, found that "countries that pose a proliferation or security risk routinely obtain reprocessing information," published by the Department Of Energy (DOE).

Through reprocessing, plutonium can be separated from used

Reuters. "Singh just repeated that they are determined to restore peace and get the accord properly established."

However, Gen. Singh promised his men would make their presence felt more decisively, quickly answering calls for help and sending patrols to remote trouble spots.

He said he had already summoned Tigers leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and discussed Sunday's violence, in which the Tigers slaughtered unarmed members of three rival Tamil groups.

Meanwhile Indian troops fought a gunbattle with Tamil Tigers' militants, police said on Wednesday.

But they said killings were continuing with the murder at midnight of a government official by suspected members of the Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) fired at Indian soldiers sent on patrol to Eravur after Sunday's massacres across Batticaloa district.

The Indians fought back, wounding a Tiger who they arrested with two others.

The rest fled, police said.

However, the Indian diplomat's comments appeared to indicate that the troops were not about to start a shooting war against the Tigers, who received Indian backing before the peace accord and were the most powerful Tamil group.

The militants have surrendered only part of their arsenals and the violence between them has put the Indians under mounting pressure to go out and seize the dead man was identified as W. Vicknairajah, the assistant government agent of the town of Samanthurai, who was shot at midnight while asleep at his house.

"We felt disappointed that there was nothing really new," a participant at the meeting told

Police said about 20 Tigers who were dragging away four members of the rival People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) fired at Indian soldiers sent on patrol to Eravur after Sunday's massacres across Batticaloa district.

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Hackers break into NASA computer

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Computer hackers broke into the U.S. space agency's worldwide data network throughout the summer and gathered secret information on space shuttle projects and rocket failures, West German media has said.

News reports said young West Germans gained regular access to at least 20 computers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and had the ability to paralyse the entire network.

The ARD Television Network said a flaw in the network's security system allowed the hackers to

enter the network from May to September.

Hackers are computer enthusiasts who often try to break into private computer systems for the challenge or for criminal gain.

The NASA system connects more than 1,000 computers worldwide that share information on space research, nuclear physics and molecular biology. ARD said in a report broadcast Tuesday night.

The network includes U.S. atomic research facilities in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In Washington, NASA said in

a statement that the tapped network provides unclassified information to university and industry researchers.

"We know of no classified information which can be accessed through the network," the statement said.

The statement said NASA uses a number of computer networks with varying degrees of security to provide "appropriate individuals" with access to data.

The Hamburg-based magazine Stern reported information similar to the ARD report in advance telexed to news media Tuesday.

Ariane launches 2 satellites after successful take off

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — The European space rocket Ariane launched two telecommunications satellites into orbit on Tuesday, in a perfect mission that officials said would restore confidence in Europe's space industry after a 15-month enforced delay.

The 50-metre high rocket thundered into the tropical night skies of South America from its jungle launch pad at 9:45 p.m. (0045 GMT), after a technical hitch came within two minutes of forcing a 48-hour postponement of the mission.

"We were holding our breath, but at last we made it," said a jubilant Frederick d'Alestra, president of ArianeSpace.

A faulty electrical circuit giving false information forced the countdown to be stopped six minutes before the scheduled launch.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1986 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

JUST A BIT OF CARE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 9 4
♥ A 10 8
♦ K J 4
♦ A 5 2
WEST **EAST**
♦ 7 3 ♦ J 10 2
♦ 5 4 ♦ Q 3 2
Q Q 9 3 Q 7 6 5
♦ K 10 8 7 6 4 ♦ 3
SOUTH
♦ A K 8 6 5
VK 9 7 6
♦ A 10
♦ Q J

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠

The 10th European Junior Championship, limited to players under 25, was won by the Netherlands. It was a fitting reward for a country most active in promoting bridge for young players.

The competitors might have

been young in years and experience, but they left no doubts about their skill. On this board from the Sweden-Great Britain match, North-South bid well to reach a small slam in spades. In their methods, South's rebid of two hearts was forcing, and a cue-bidding sequence followed.

"Judge Sessions' extensive law enforcement experience, his commitment to the rule of law and his strong moral character exemplify the type of person who should lead the FBI," said Sen. Joseph R. Biden, a Democrat, the committee chairman.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said Sessions was an "outstanding choice" to succeed William H. Webster, who left in May after nine years as FBI chief to become director of the CIA after the death of William J. Casey.

The Swedish declarer found a superior line. He drew three rounds of trumps, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club back to hand. With East marked with nothing but red cards left, declarer simply led a heart and, when West followed with a low card, he inserted the eight. East won a cheap heart trick, but he was end played. No matter which suit he returned, it would be to a tenace and would present declarer with the extra trick he needed to fulfill his slam.

U.N. conference agrees on treaty to protect ozone layer

MONTREAL (R) — United Nations members agreed on Tuesday on a historic pact aimed at protecting the earth's protective ozone layer by restricting production of a common chemical used in aerosol sprays.

Scientists believe that emissions of the chemical — chlorofluorocarbons, commonly known as CFCs — must be significantly cut to prevent what could be catastrophic changes in climate and dramatic increases in skin cancer over the next 50 years, U.N. science specialist Peter Usher said.

The proposed treaty calls for countries to freeze and then half consumption by the late 1990s. CFCs production is a \$2 billion-a-year industry.

The network includes U.S. atomic research facilities in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In Washington, NASA said in

a statement that the tapped network provides unclassified information to university and industry researchers.

"We know of no classified information which can be accessed through the network," the statement said.

The statement said NASA uses a number of computer networks with varying degrees of security to provide "appropriate individuals" with access to data.

The Hamburg-based magazine Stern reported information similar to the ARD report in advance telexed to news media Tuesday.

Sessions wins unanimous Senate approval as FBI chief

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Senate Judiciary Committee has unanimously approved President Ronald Reagan's nomination of U.S. district Judge William S. Sessions of Texas as FBI director.

Sessions' overwhelming confirmation by the full Senate was expected later this week.

The committee's voice vote approval of Sessions' nomination came during a brief, midday break in its first day of hearings on Mr. Reagan's selection of Robert H. Bork to become a supreme court justice.

Meanwhile embattled Judge Robert Bork, President Reagan's choice for a key supreme court vacancy, has defended his controversial views on abortion, civil rights and individual freedoms.

Bork, under assault from liberals for his perceived right-wing activism, got a boost at the start of his Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings on Tuesday with an endorsement from former President Gerald Ford.

The rare appearance before a congressional committee by a former or sitting president highlighted the vital nature of Bork's nomination for Mr. Reagan.

With the nine-judge court split between conservative and more liberal judges, Bork, if confirmed, could provide a crucial swing vote, tilting the court to the right for the first time in 30 years and keeping it there for decades.

Pentagon to speed up 'Star Wars' research

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon is preparing to speed up research on President Reagan's "Star Wars" anti-missile plan despite Soviet objections to the programme. U.S. Defence officials said on Tuesday.

They said Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger planned to announce his decision this week on recommendations by Pentagon experts to speed work in several key areas of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), commonly known as "Star Wars."

The officials, who asked not to be identified, spoke with Reuters as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held meetings in Washington with President Reagan and other U.S. officials on nuclear arms control and other issues.

The Defence officials denied published reports that an

announcement of the latest SDI move was being delayed until later in the week, after Mr. Shevardnadze and his high-level party leave Washington, to protect Soviet sensibilities.

"The paper work is simply not ready. Mr. Weinberger doesn't operate like that" said one Pentagon official.

"Both the president and the secretary are determined that we go ahead with SDI despite Soviet objections — objections which the secretary pointed out this week are 'blatant hypocrisy,'" said another official.

The United States has been conducting research for four years into possible ground and space-based weapons which could lead to deployment of at least a preliminary system to shoot down attacking nuclear missiles as early as the mid-1990s.

COLUMNS 7G8

Man with knife arrested near Duke of York

LONDON (R) — A man with a knife was arrested near the Duke and Duchess of York during a royal visit to the northern city of Sheffield, police has said. A police spokesman said Prince Andrew, second son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, and his wife Princess Sarah were never in danger during the incident. The man, arrested by plainclothes police after a tip-off from a spectator in the welcoming crowd, was charged with possessing an offensive weapon and ordered to appear in court. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "We are aware of the incident but we have no comment to make because it is now in the hands of the police and it is a matter for them."

Hawk breaks into Moscow flat

MOSCOW (R) — A goshawk is back in the forest after breaking and entering a Moscow apartment, the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported on Wednesday. The youth paper said the bird apparently missed its prey in a dive and smashed through the apartment window of a starlet Maria Katorzhanova who telephoned the youth paper for help. A reporter and a specialist in dealing with stray wild animals was sent to the flat and the hapless hawk was later released in a nearby forest.

Kiev bureaucrats enrage car owners

MOSCOW (R) — Car owners in Kiev wanting a trailer to take on holiday need go no further than a toyshop — although they might find the product a little small — the Communist Party daily Pravda has reported. In an item dealing with problems of everyday life, Pravda referred to a recent letter to a local newspaper in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, complaining that it was virtually impossible to buy car trailers. "The reply that was dreamt up deserved a place in the Guinness Book of Records," Pravda said. It said the deputy Kiev government chief had written back to the local paper, saying that thanks to his office, "AF-1" trailers were now available. The "AF-1" trailers turned out to be toys, measuring 30 cm by 10 cm, much to the indignation of many car owners, who felt local government was playing games with them. Pravda said. It commented that this showed how far the bureaucrat's principle of "sign anything and forget it" could go.

Upside-down stamps sold for \$200,000

NEW YORK (R) — Four stamps with upside-down likenesses of the late Shah of Iran were auctioned for a record \$200,000 on Monday, the sellers said. "They were minted in Iran 30 years ago and found in Washington D.C., and the big mystery is why they took so long to surface," said Marc Rousse of Coach Investments, the New York firm which sold the stamps. He identified the buyer only as a U.S. citizen and said he paid 10 times what the stamps sold for in May when 100 of them were auctioned for about \$5,000 apiece.

Four were then resold to Coach and re-auctioned by computer on Monday. Rousse said the \$50,000 paid for each was a record for an inverted stamp of this kind, and probably second in value only to the 1918 upside-down Flying Jenny, a U.S. Air Mail stamp which recently sold for \$115,000. He told Reuters the unused olive and brown 50-dinar Iranian stamps, which show the upside-down head and shoulders of the late Shah Reza Pahlavi, were part of a block originally discovered in Washington, but joked he did not know if CIA employees were involved. A case involving Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employees and U.S. stamps with upside-down faces broke at the beginning of September when a dealer confirmed that nine CIA workers had sold 86 of the stamps.

5 military astronauts assigned to 2nd post-Challenger flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Five military astronauts were named Tuesday to fly the second post-Challenger space shuttle flight, which will be a secret U.S. Defence Department mission.

Col. Richard M. Mullane, Air Force Lt. Col. Jerry L. Ross and Navy Cmdr. William M. Shepard. Col. Gardner will be the pilot, the others will be mission specialists, working with the payload.

Col. Mullane and Col. Ross each have flown on one previous shuttle mission. Col. Gardner and Cmdr. Shepard will be making their first trip.

The others are Air Force Lt. Col. Guy S. Gardner, Air Force

The flight is scheduled in September 1988.

E. German named president of U.N. General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (R) — East German Deputy Foreign Minister Peter Florin, who fought alongside Soviet partisans in World War II, was elected president of the General Assembly at its opening meeting on Tuesday.

Florin, 65, whose family fled to West Germany when Hitler came to power in 1933, addressed the Assembly in Russian, one of the U.N.'s six official languages.

The emotional high point of the Pope's day and possibly of the whole tour was a meeting with 25-year-old Tony Melendez, an armless man who played guitar with his toes, brought tears to the Pontiff's eyes.